



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Needs Emergency Funding NOW.
LIHEAP helps millions of Americans with their heating and cooling costs, but program funding is threatened by ever-rising energy costs.

Restore LIHEAP funding to \$3.2 billion.

LIHEAP needs greater funding

AARP believes that Congress should immediately appropriate no less than the funding level provided last year, \$3.2 billion, for LIHEAP funding for the current fiscal year, FY 2007. Congress should include an additional \$1 billion in the Supplemental Appropriations bill for FY 2007.

People should not have to choose between heating and eating.

Older Americans, who are more susceptible to hypothermia and heat stroke, know the importance of heating and cooling their homes; they pay their utility bills and skimp on other necessities to get by. However, no one in America should be forced to skip their medications or cut back on essential nutritional needs in order to keep their heat on.

LIHEAP helps the poorest of the poor.

Nearly three out of four families receiving LIHEAP assistance have incomes of less than 100% of the federal poverty level (\$16,600 for a family of three) and almost one in two have incomes less than 75% of the federal poverty level (\$12,225 for a family of three).¹

LIHEAP is serving more households than ever before, but still cannot meet the need.

Since 2002, an additional 1.5 million households are receiving LIHEAP assistance. At the same time, requests for LIHEAP assistance last year soared to the highest level in 12 years. Yet even at the record funding level in FY 2006, LIHEAP could only serve about 5.8 million of the more than 32 million eligible households nationwide.

LIHEAP recipients' purchasing power would decline without additional money.

Since LIHEAP's 1982 inception, funding levels have not increased as energy costs have risen. Under the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution, the average LIHEAP recipient's grant would only pay 22.9% of the heating oil bill, 38.8% of the natural gas bill, 25.6% of the propane bill or 38.3% of the electricity bill.²

Emergency funding is needed NOW.

High energy prices have not gone away and the weather has proven very unpredictable – emergency funding is needed now and in the future to protect some of the most vulnerable populations in America.

¹ "The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Providing Heating and Cooling Assistance to Low-Income Families During a Period of High Energy Prices," National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, January 29, 2007.

² Ibid.